NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

DECEMBER 1948 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 5 • VOL. 16, NO. 4

Dear Local Presidents:

IN my October message I told you about the action taken by our Board of Managers last September to combat vicious comics and unwholesome radio and motion picture programs. Since then many of you have written to me to say that you enthusiastically approve the stand of your national organization on this important issue and that you pledge your fullest cooperation in making the campaign thoroughly effective.

• I wish you could see the volume of mail that has been delivered at the National Office since our program was announced. Letters and telegrams of encouragement have come not only from our own parent-teacher family but also from individuals and groups outside our organization who agree with you and me that the corruption of our children and young people through the misuse of these mighty means of communication must be stopped. Furthermore the overwhelmingly favorable publicity given to our action by responsible representatives of press and radio is heartening.

I wish to report to you that your newly appointed action committee is making progress. On November 29 its members gathered in Chicago to confer on the specific steps that should be taken to guarantee the success of our campaign in every community of the nation. The results of this conference will soon be relayed to you.

• I think it is worth while for me to repeat at this time that ours is a positive program. We are *for* good literature, *for* good radio programs, *for* good motion pictures—*for* your children and mine. This has been our organization's policy from the days of our Founders. At least twenty-five years ago our national magazine began to carry evaluations of motion pictures based on their suitability for family and juvenile audiences. That feature, known today as "Motion Picture Previews," is one of its most popular departments. Starting in the January *National Parent-Teacher* a similar service in the realm of radio will be provided. This regular column of radio comment and program evaluation, to be known as "Dial-Log," will be conducted by our national chairman of Radio, H. B. McCarty. By calling both these features to the attention of your members and fellow townspeople you will be performing an important service in helping to counteract the evil influence of undesirable types of programs.

© H. Armstrong Roberts

As 1948 draws to a close, some 7,500,000 membership cards have been distributed, and orders for thousands more are pouring in daily. Here is concrete evidence that our parent-teacher associations everywhere are providing the kind of platform and leadership the American people want and need.

• We also have reason to rejoice at the growing popularity of our official magazine, the *National Parent-Teacher*. For the past several months we have been *averaging* 54,000 subscriptions a month! You will agree with me, I am sure, that this is truly an outstanding record. It is additional proof that our members are finding the magazine an all-around tool in carrying out the Four-Point Program. Although each one of the four major areas has been well represented in its pages, special emphasis has been given this year to the field of parent and family life education. As the total number of subscribers climbs ever higher, we are justified in believing that more and more parent-teacher families find they cannot do without our official magazine.

I am mindful that I addressed a personal plea to every local president early this year urging your cooperation in calling the magazine to the attention of your members and in pointing out its many-sided value. I deeply appreciate the splendid cooperation with which you have responded to my request.

• Wherever you are celebrating your Christmas Day this year, I hope that you are enjoying the spirit of charity and love that is typical of the season. On this day above all others the family becomes the center of interest, and home the dearest place on earth. As our parent-teacher membership draws its strength from hundreds of thousands of American homes, the meaning of Christmas has special significance for us. May it be our constant endeavor so "To raise the standards of home life" that the spirit of Christmas will truly pervade our lives every month the year around. If we do this, we of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers will have made a great and lasting contribution to the well-being of mankind.

• In closing, let me join with the other members of your National Board of Managers in wishing you and all the members of your families a very Merry Christmas.

Faithfully yours,

Mabel W. Hughes

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

THE OBJECTIONABLE COMICS MUST GO!

An Australian Comments on Objectional Comics

Reprinted from The Parent and Citizen, official organ of the Parents and Citizens' Federation of New South Wales, Australia.

MENTAL POISON

Dear Sir,

Congratulations to "Parent & Citizen" on publishing material drawing attention to the menace of Yankee strip comics.

What is the good of us campaigning for better educational facilities, etc., if this horrible trash is allowed to pollute the fertile minds of our young people?

I understand the dollar shortage makes it difficult to import visual education and much medical equipment from the U.S.A. If this is so, then it is a crying shame that a million dollars can be found to import strip comics (or print here under license), while such much-needed equipment is prohibited. Furthermore, I understand publishers cannot get sufficient newsprint or other paper for students' textbooks. Surely there is something wrong here. How do the publishers of these literary monstrosities get newsprint at the expense of textbooks?

The P. & C. Movement should certainly do everything possible to stop this menace. My P. & C. has already protested to the Minister of Customs, Canberra, and to our local M.H.R.

If we all do this we should make some impression on those responsible for the above anomalies.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. WARNER.

Sydney.

● Please do not write to the National Office for membership cards. Write instead to your own state office. You will find the state office address on your membership card.

Fifty or More

IT gives us great pleasure to announce in this *Bulletin* the associations that have reported fifty or more subscriptions to *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine.* To the Burton P.T.A. of Grand Rapids, Michigan, goes the honor of being first on the list with a total of 207 subscriptions. Thirty-five state congresses are represented. Alabama is first with 15 associations, Illinois second with 10, and Arkansas and North Carolina tied for third place with 8 associations each. Only fifteen states are not included, a small number for this early in the campaign year.

Burton	Grand Rapids, Mich.	207
Capitol Heights Elementary	Montgomery, Ala.	185
Lincoln	Kingsport, Tenn.	173
Cloverdale	Montgomery, Ala.	172
Brentano	Chicago, Ill.	152
Lindley Elementary	Greensboro, N. C.	152
Robert E. Lee	Birmingham, Ala.	149
Locke	Arlington, Mass.	133
Perkins	Des Moines, Iowa	110
Lindbergh	Dearborn, Mich.	108
Elizabeth City	Elizabeth City, N. C.	106
Eastern Elementary	Washington, D. C.	105
Fairview	Camden, Ark.	104
Budlong	Chicago, Ill.	104
Park Hill	N. Little Rock, Ark.	101
Darwin	Chicago, Ill.	100
Roosevelt	Wauwatosa, Wis.	100
Jamieson	Chicago, Ill.	98
Kalihi-Kai	Honolulu, T. H.	95
Washington	Bettendorf, Iowa	94
Yocum	El Dorado, Ark.	82
Fisher	Corpus Christi, Texas	81
Poindexter	Jackson, Miss.	80
Lamar	Kingsville, Texas	80
Central City Grade	Central City, Ky.	78
Third Ward	Lake Charles, La.	78
Guilford #214	Baltimore, Md.	78
Tarrant	Birmingham, Ala.	77
Mason	Chicago, Ill.	77
Woodard	Wilson, N. C.	77
Snowden	Memphis, Tenn.	77
Beaverton Grade	Beaverton, Ore.	76
Nathan C. Shaeffer	Lancaster, Pa.	75
Northport Elementary	Northport, Ala.	74
McKinley	Bartlesville, Okla.	73
Dwight	Fairfield, Conn.	72
Brentwood	Mt. Ranier, Md.	72
Franklin	Fargo, N. Dak.	72
Paxson	Missoula, Mont.	71
Forrest City	Forrest City, Ark.	70
Patterson	Washington, D. C.	70
Hurie	Clarksville, Ark.	67
Romana Riley	Savannah, Ga.	67
Taft	Charleston, W. Va.	66
McPherson	Chicago, Ill.	64
Fisher Street	Burlington, N. C.	64
Frances Thomas	Selma, Ala.	63
Dundalk	Dundalk, Md.	63
Clay Street	Vicksburg, Miss.	63
Picayune Elementary	Picayune, Miss.	62
Jackson	Omaha, Nebr.	62
Kendall	Tulsa, Okla.	61
Rosenthal	Alexandria, La.	60
Aycock	Kannapolis, N. C.	60
Warrensville Heights	Warrensville, Ohio	60
Mount Rose	York, Pa.	60
Woodrow Wilson	Kannapolis, N. C.	58
Childersburg	Childersburg, Ala.	57
Hiawatha	Berwyn, Ill.	57
Poland Sch. Dist.	Poland, Ohio	57
Lincoln Junior High	Salt Lake City, Utah	57
Woodrow Wilson	Birmingham, Ala.	56
Rantoul	Rantoul, Ill.	56
Woodleaf	Woodleaf, N. C.	56
Dudgeon	Madison, Wis.	56
Loretto	Montgomery, Ala.	55
Lincoln	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	55
Dundee	Omaha, Nebr.	55
Pen Argyl	Pen Argyl, Pa.	55
Noble St.	Anniston, Ala.	54
Shades Coboba	Birmingham, Ala.	54
Woodridge	Washington, D. C.	54
Robert Burns	Detroit, Mich.	54
Ruleville	Ruleville, Miss.	54
Putman Heights	Oklahoma City, Okla.	54
East Tallahassee	E. Tallahassee, Ala.	53
Waldo	Waldo, Ark.	53
Centennial	Evansville, Ind.	53
Bryant	Boone, Iowa	53
North Grade	Spencer, Iowa	53
Kingsley	Waterloo, Iowa	53
Patrick Henry	Richmond, Va.	53
John Quincy Adams	Washington, D. C.	52
Roosevelt	Nampa, Idaho	52
Spalding	Chicago, Ill.	52
Fairmont	New Albany, Ind.	52
Lakewood	Erie, Pa.	52
Sans Souci	Greenville, S. C.	52
Garfield	Salt Lake City, Utah	52
Robinson	Birmingham, Ala.	51
West End	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	51
Beebe	Beebe, Ark.	51
Holly Grove	Holly Grove, Ark.	51
Shenandoah	Miami, Fla.	51
East	Jefferson City, Mo.	51
Phillips High	Birmingham, Ala.	50
Jackson	Rockford, Ill.	50
Washington	Fairfield, Iowa	50
Allen	Hutchinson, Kans.	50
Bowermar	Springfield, Mo.	50
Bryant	Scottsbluff, Nebr.	50
Graham	Shelby, N. C.	50
Rose City Park	Portland, Ore.	50
Magnolia	Greenwood, S. C.	50

Promotion of the *National Parent-Teacher* is a major part of the parent education program of the organization at all levels of work—*national, state, district, council,* and *local.* Associations, like individuals, do their best work when they are well informed and fully aware of the reasons why they are being urged to take action on issues that are either detrimental or favorable to the welfare of children. The P.T.A. member who reads the *National Parent-Teacher* regularly knows the score and consequently is able to take an active, intelligent, and telling part in the work of the association.

No wonder, then, that progressive local presidents are getting right behind the campaign to increase the circulation of their national magazine. They know it is a builder of leaders as well as the best parent education guide to be had. This acknowledged belief in the power of the *National Parent-Teacher* is to a great degree responsible for the many associations that are now members of our Over Fifty Club.

If your association is entitled to be listed, please send us the following information before the next issue of the *Bulletin* goes to press on December 10:

1. *The number of subscriptions.*
2. *The date they were forwarded.*
3. *The name of your P.T.A.*
4. *The name of your local president.*

Tell us too when you add more subscriptions to your total. We want every association to get credit for its achievements, not because we are primarily interested in numbers, but because the larger the circulation of the magazine THE MORE it will do FOR CHILDREN!

Streamliners

The Royal Oak Council, Royal Oak, Michigan, has found that a "Checkup Meeting" is a valuable follow-up for the fall school of instruction. Accordingly, early in February this year each council chairman met with local unit chairmen to evaluate fall instruction, to review work done during the last few months, and to exchange ideas for further progress.

. . . . . .

Though the weather was below zero in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a gala spirit prevailed at a winter picnic given this year by the Grand Rapids Council of P.T.A.'s.

Fifteen hundred parents and teachers gathered at the Civic Auditorium, where tables were laden with picnic fare. After dinner the Four-Point Program of the National Congress was presented in pageant form.

. . . . . .

In Augusta, Maine, these have been the current P.T.A. activities: The Central Council has been considering plans for a new high school. The Williams P.T.A. is making a special study of taxes during the year, and both the Williams and Lincoln units sponsored and supervised skating rinks. The Nash P.T.A. acted on safety measures for children in primary school, and the Cony unit completed the purchase of uniforms for the school band.

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Building and equipping a playground has been a special project of the Dexter P.T.A. in Dexter, Maine. By making the children's recreation needs known, the local newspaper has been of valuable assistance. Moreover, some interested businessmen have agreed to build the equipment.

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The Fairfield-Benton P.T.A. in Fairfield, Maine, helped to establish a youth center for students.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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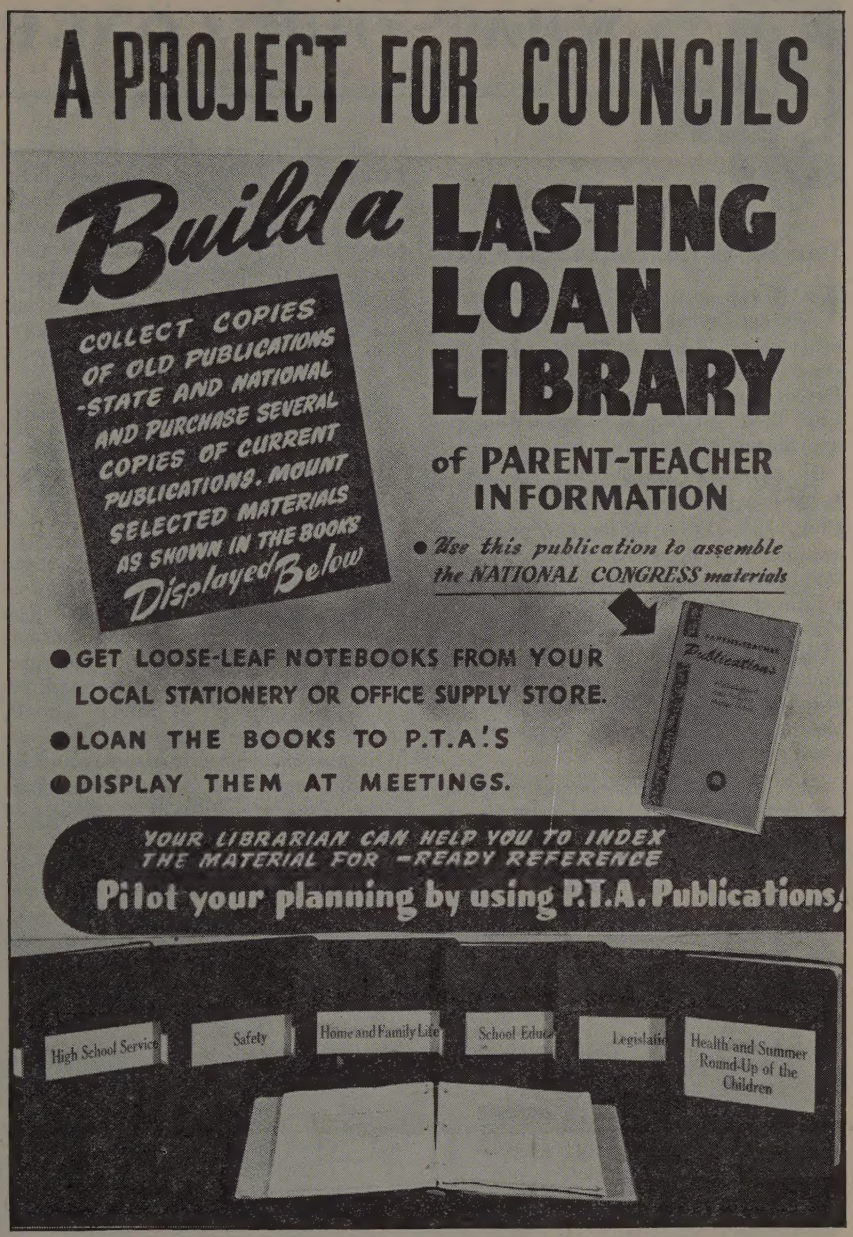
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-chief: Mrs. Eva H. Grant; *assistant editor:* Mary Elinore Smith
Editorial assistant: Florence M. Cromien
Managing editor: Mary A. Ferre; *assistant on production:* Mrs. Elizabeth Hall


A PROJECT FOR COUNCILS
Build a LASTING LOAN LIBRARY
of PARENT-TEACHER INFORMATION
COLLECT COPIES OF OLD PUBLICATIONS -STATE AND NATIONAL AND PURCHASE SEVERAL COPIES OF CURRENT PUBLICATIONS. MOUNT SELECTED MATERIALS AS SHOWN IN THE BOOKS Displayed Below
• Use this publication to assemble the NATIONAL CONGRESS materials
• GET LOOSE-LEAF NOTEBOOKS FROM YOUR LOCAL STATIONERY OR OFFICE SUPPLY STORE.
• LOAN THE BOOKS TO P.T.A.'S
• DISPLAY THEM AT MEETINGS.
YOUR LIBRARIAN CAN HELP YOU TO INDEX THE MATERIAL FOR -READY REFERENCE
Pilot your planning by using P.T.A. Publications
High School Service
Safety
Home and Family Life
School Educa
Legislatio
Health and Summer Round-Up of the Children

LOAN LIBRARY PROJECT

• Building a permanent reference library of parent-teacher published material should be a stimulating and rewarding project for parent-teacher councils.

• The Parent-Teacher Publications *Index*, which lists and classifies articles, will be useful in selecting materials, which you can then track down in old and current issues of the *National Parent-Teacher* and other Congress publications. The clippings can be mounted in loose-leaf notebooks and indexed with the help of your librarian.

• A collection of these notebooks will form a valuable reference library which can be displayed at meetings and loaned out to associations for study programs.

• Research will be far easier when study groups are able to find quickly and easily some of the best and most informative material available, classified under topical headings that relate directly to the work of the standing committees.

Start your library now. Pilot your planning with P.T.A. publications!

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-

Parent Education Baby Club

PARENT education and the *National Parent-Teacher* go hand in hand everywhere, but in Alabama, where the state congress is sponsoring a *National Parent-Teacher* Parent Education Baby Club this year, the two amount to one and the same thing.

By early November 275 members had been enrolled in the state-wide Baby Club. In addition, eleven new preschool sections had been organized. Two of these sections are located in very small mining towns. Interest throughout the state has been so keen that in the city of Birmingham 150 mothers of children under school age turned out recently to plan specific ways of encouraging the use of the official P.T.A. magazine by young parents.

Mrs. Joseph W. Eshelman, chairman of the Alabama Congress's magazine committee and also well known as national chairman of the Committee on Juvenile Protection, has long believed that the magazine offers the best medium for reaching parents who cannot attend the usual study groups and parent-teacher meetings. Therefore, she reasoned recently, introducing the *National Parent-Teacher* into every home—whether that home is initially a P.T.A. home or not—is identical with furthering the education of parents. The Baby Club is a project to advance both these worthy objects.

• To encourage interest in the club and its purposes, Mrs. Eshelman sent out, through the state office, some 1,275 copies of a mimeographed letter addressed to local presidents and magazine chairmen. In that letter she urged them to make a special effort to persuade parents of preschool children to subscribe to the magazine and thus become members of the Baby Club. Invitations are carefully extended to both "Mr. and Mrs."

A variety of methods have been adopted for getting in touch with prospective members. Magazine chairmen have approached the young parents through public and private kindergartens in their neighborhoods, through beginners' departments of Sunday schools, and through preschool sections previously organized. The most popular and rewarding technique, however, has been house-to-house visiting at the homes of young couples.

The names and addresses of the parents are mailed to the state office and forwarded to the National Office. All subscriptions, of course, are credited to the P.T.A. designated by the person securing them.

• The progress of the campaign is being featured monthly in the state bulletin. The entire project will also have a prominent place on the program of the state convention next April. Currently it is being stressed at all schools of instruction.

Since the campaign began, requests for additional information about parent-teacher work for preschool children and their parents have reached a record high in Alabama. Interest in study classes for parents of small children has also shown a marked revival.

Mrs. Eshelman is ably assisted in this project by Mrs. Harry Nelson, office and field secretary of the Alabama Congress. The state chairmen of the committees on parent education and preschool sections are also cooperating wholeheartedly.

Orford, U.S.A.!

Recently the tiny village of Orford, New Hampshire, has been convincing itself as well as other communities that a small town doesn't *have* to be dull! And of course the local P.T.A. has done its share to prove the point.

During the past year the community recreation council arranged a broad program of social and educational activities such as free movies and a square dance every other week for everyone from six to sixty. However, these events served to emphasize the need for a community building that would include a

• Thirty young mothers of preschool children pose for their picture. They are all members of the *National Parent-Teacher* Parent Education Baby Club, which is being sponsored by the Alabama Congress. Mrs. Rupert Stevens, chairman of the Magazine committee, holds a copy of their favorite text, the *National Parent-Teacher*. A number of young fathers also belong to this club, but evidently they are camera-shy.

TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*

gymnasium and other recreation facilities.

To start a fund for this purpose, the P.T.A. decided to present a home talent play, even though Orford had no theater in which to stage it. The town hall at Fairlee, Vermont, just across the river, was booked for a one-night stand, which it was thought would be sufficient for all who wanted to see the performance. However, the cast of eleven amateurs—an automobile mechanic, a coal dealer, farmers, and housewives—did such a good job that several other communities asked to have the play presented locally. Before they were through, the actors had performed in eight different towns and traveled 125 miles. Working on a percentage basis, they raised money for several P.T.A. groups as well as their own local association. And, best of all, the fund for the community recreation hall is now well under way.

York Study Group

The magazine section of *The New York Times*, on October 10, 1948, carried a feature story by Catherine Mackenzie, describing the study course held last winter by the York, Pennsylvania, Council of Parent-Teacher Associations.

A reading of the report submitted to the *Bulletin* by Mrs. J. Alfred Simpson, council president, showed clearly why the *Times* picked up the story for its Sunday readers.

Called the Child Development and Mental Hygiene Workshop, the course was distinguished not only by the quality of its leadership and discussion content, but also by the fact that it was offered to the entire city of York as an important part of adult education in the community.

The project grew out of the feeling of York P.T.A. members that they needed expert help, not only in understanding their children but also in understanding themselves as parents. Many of them had heard or read references to the fact that every problem child has a problem parent, and they were determined to discover what elements in their personalities as parents contributed to the problems in their children's personalities.

The school board and school superintendent were cooperative; they paid for the services of guidance experts and provided a hall where child development workshop activities could be carried on.

Under the direction of Dr. Victoria Lyles, director of elementary education, Dr. Arthur W. Ferguson, superintendent of schools, and Mrs. J. Alfred Simpson, council president, guidance experts were engaged through the extension office of the Pennsylvania State College. This proved to be doubly effective; not only did it provide good leadership for the course, but it also enabled teachers to obtain college credits for participation in the workshop.

The theme of the discussion was the deep need of all children for love, not only by implication but by constant demonstration. Heading the report of the course are these words:

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three:
But the greatest of these is love.
Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Some of the statements made by the study leaders were:

"People are loved into good behavior—not punished by it."

"Needed, wanted children are seldom delinquent."

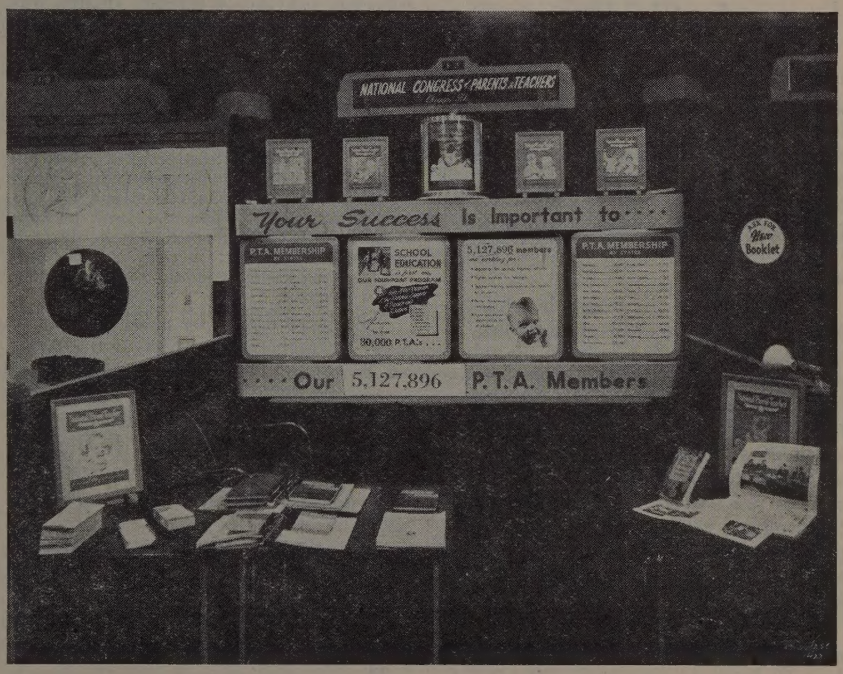
"Happy, secure children grow up to be adults 'who can take it.'"

The practical effectiveness of the workshop was dramatically illustrated by the incident, described in the report, of the little girl who cried and refused to take her report card home for fear that her mother would whip her. The teacher, a substitute, put the report card back in her desk with the intention of letting the regular teacher handle the situation when she returned. But within a few days, the little girl asked the substitute teacher for her report card, with the joyful news, "Mama will not whip me! She said she loves me too much and at the workshop she learned that children study harder when they are not whipped."

Altogether this workshop was a stimulating, meaningful enterprise, and is an excellent example of what a P.T.A. can do practically and realistically for its community. *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* was used extensively during the workshop meetings.

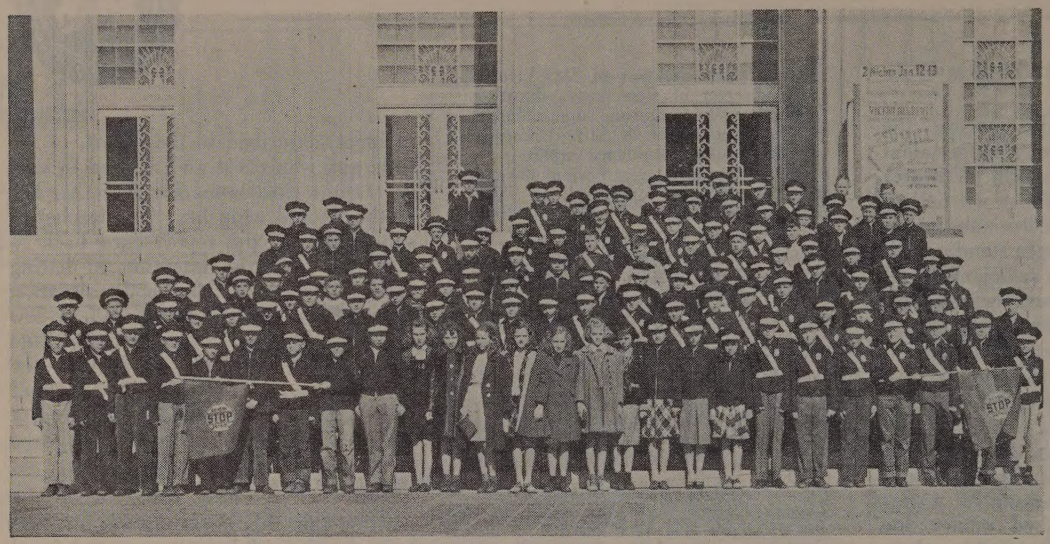
1949 CONVENTION

The next annual convention of the National Congress will be held at St. Louis, Missouri, May 16–18, 1949. Official headquarters will be at the Jefferson Hotel.


NATIONAL CONGRESS of PARENTS and TEACHERS
Your Success Is Important to . . . .
P.T.A. MEMBERSHIP
SCHOOL EDUCATION
5,127,896 members
P.T.A. MEMBERSHIP
. . . . Our 5,127,896 P.T.A. Members
Your Booklet

• Exhibit of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers at the meeting of the American Association of School Administrators, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1948. It is through exhibits such as these that your organization keeps parent-teacher work and accomplishments before other important national groups.

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS ARE DOING



• These youngsters are members of the School Safety Patrol in Little Rock, Arkansas. Officiating at fifteen local elementary schools, the boys and girls are selected on a basis of good citizenship, scholarship, and health.

In 1946 an intensified safety program was launched in the community by the Little Rock Council of P.T.A.'s with the cooperation of the local police chief and the director of state police. Then through the interest of the Little Rock Cooperative Club, the attractive patrol uniforms shown here were purchased.

The children are proud of their waterproof navy blue Eisenhower jackets and their whitebilled caps to match. Their white Sam Brown belts and badges were furnished by the American Automobile Association. The uniforms are worn only while school patrol members are on duty at intersections near their schools before and after school and at the noon hour.

Chuck-Wagon Roundup for Children

Unique among money-raising projects is the popular chuck-wagon roundup given annually by the Sam Hughes Elementary School P.T.A. in Tucson, Arizona. Originally sponsored by the P.T.A. as a sort of preliminary to the Tucson rodeo, La Freita de los Vaqueros, the project is now a well-established function looked forward to by both young and old.

A week before the event the children are allowed to wear western outfits to school, and the halls ring with the sound of spurs and the click of high-heeled boots worn by boys and girls alike. On the day of the roundup, the children assemble at 12:45 for the grand march, at which the best-dressed cowgirl and cowboy are selected by the judges. Then the program gets under way in the grass patio of the Spanish-type school, where each room has a sliding-door wall that can be completely opened onto the court.

The 1948 roundup, the seventh annual one, was under the direction of Mrs. Jack Underwood, secretary of the P.T.A. As chairman of the roundup committee, she was assisted by two room mothers from each schoolroom, one who was helping for the first time and another who had previously served. In this way an experienced committee is assured each year.

Mr. Underwood, husband of the chairman, served as master of ceremonies for the various events. First came the roping contest, for which the children had been practicing for weeks. After that there were rope-twirling exhibitions; clown acts; native Indian dances by Chief White Mountain Lion and his tom-tom dancers in full ceremonial dress; performances by two trick horses under the direction of a woman trainer; a cake auction; and various booths such as a white elephant stand and a fishpond.

Two jeeps driven by soldiers were on hand through the courtesy of the Army air base, and the American Legion had loaned its "Katy." A small charge was made for rides in these vehicles, as well as in a good old tallyho. Ponies and horses were also available for rides.

The "chuck wagon" was set up on the playground back of the school. Here for a nominal sum were sold hamburgers, hot dogs, frijoles, pie, and coffee, and the amount of food consumed gave evidence of some remarkably healthy young appetites.

The roundup showed a handsome net profit after all expenses were paid. One of the biggest items was $50 worth of accident insurance for the day. Luckily no one was hurt, but the precaution was nevertheless deemed well worth while.

Lillian Kaplan, who sent in the account of the chuck-wagon roundup, is of course proud of the success of the project but adds that "any school can put on as successful a show, using the ability of its teachers and the cooperation of the community."

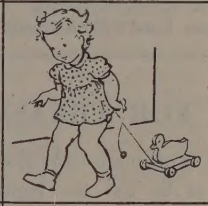
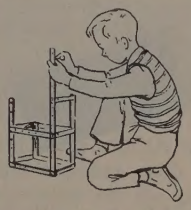
Recreation—Ally of Health

Early last spring an after-school recreation program was launched at the Scranton School, New Haven, Connecticut, under the sponsorship of the Scranton P.T.A., the New Haven State Teachers College, and the New Haven Board of Education. The program was planned for a six-week trial period, and, after thorough evaluation, there is a possibility that similar plans will be adopted in the future by other schools in the city.

The activities were varied enough to appeal to children in three age groups—primary, junior elementary, and senior elementary. Among the types of recreation offered were games, sports, crafts, hobbies, hikes, story-telling, singing, parties, plays, skits, movies, square dancing, and special events to which parents were invited.

CHOOSE CHRISTMAS *Toys* WITH CARE

MRS. L. K. Nicholson, chairman of the national Committee on Safety, urges all local safety chairmen to stress the need for careful consideration in the purchase of children's Christmas toys. As a contribution to the parent and family life education area of the Four-Point Program, Mrs. Nicholson has secured permission from the National Safety Council to reprint from its magazine, *Home Safety Review*, the following pertinent points about the selection of safe toys for children of varying ages. She suggests that the information here presented be passed along to every parent-teacher member through all available publicity channels.

AGE AND INTERESTS	HAZARDS	SUGGESTIONS	
The "Hand to Mouth" Age *UP TO 2 YEARS*	Avoid small toys which may be swallowed . . . flammable objects . . . toys with small removable parts . . poisonous paint on any object . . . stuffed animals with glass or button eyes.	Sturdy rattles . . . brightly colored objects hung in view . . . rubber or washable squeak toys and stuffed dolls or animals . . . large, soft colored balls . . . blocks with rounded corners . . . push-and-pull toys with strings or rounded handles . . . nests of objects.	
The Explorative Age *2 TO 3 YEARS*	Avoid anything with sharp or rough edges which will cut or scratch . . . objects with small removable parts . . . poisonous paint or decoration . . . marbles . . . beads . . . coins . . . flammable toys.	Sand box with bucket, shovel and spoon . . . large peg boards . . . wooden animals . . . cars and wagons to push around . . . tip-proof kiddie cars and tricycles . . . large crayons . . . low rocking horse . . . small chair and table.	
The "Let's Pretend" Age *3 TO 4 YEARS*	Avoid toys which are too heavy for child's strength . . . poorly made objects which may come apart, break or splinter . . . sharp or cutting toys . . . highly flammable costumes . . . electrical toys.	Small broom and carpet sweeper . . . toy telephone . . . dolls with simple wrap-around clothing . . . doll buggies and furniture . . . dishes . . . miniature garden tools . . . trucks and tractors . . . non-electrical train . . . drum . . . costume clothes . . . building blocks.	
Beginning of Creative Age *4 TO 6 YEARS*	Avoid shooting or target toys which will endanger eyes . . . ill-balanced mobile toys (tricycles, wagons, etc.) which may topple easily . . . poisonous painting sets . . . pinching or cutting objects.	Blackboard and dustless chalk . . . simple construction sets . . . paints and paint books . . . doll house and furniture . . . small sports equipment . . . skipping rope . . . wash tub and board . . . paper doll sets with blunt end scissors . . . costumes . . . modelling clay.	
Beginning of Dexterity Age *6 TO 8 YEARS*	Avoid non-approved electrical toys . . . anything too large or complicated for child's strength and ability . . . sharp edged tools . . . poorly made skates . . . conductible kites . . . shooting toys.	Carpenter bench and well-constructed, lightweight tools . . . sled . . . construction sets . . . roller skates . . . approved electrical toys . . . kites . . . equipment for playing store, bank, filling station, etc. . . . playground equipment . . . kites . . . puzzles and games . . . sewing materials . . . dolls and doll equipment.	
Specialization of Tastes and Skills *8 AND OLDER*	Avoid air rifles, chemistry sets, dart games, bows and arrows, dangerous tools and electrical toys UNLESS used under parental supervision . . . motor scooters . . . non-approved electrical toys.	Hobby materials, arts and crafts, photography, coin and stamp collections, puppet shows . . . musical instruments . . . gym and sports equipment . . . model and construction building sets . . . electric train with Underwriters' Laboratories approval . . . bicycle . . . science sets . . .	

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

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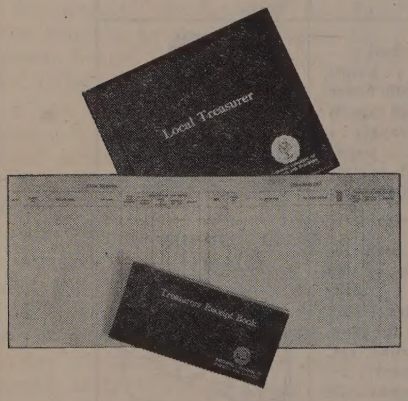
TOOLS FOR TREASURERS

A good workman can always do a good job if he has the right kind of tools. High on the list of tools that a P.T.A. treasurer will find indispensable are the new cash record account book and accompanying receipt book. This set of convenient time savers is pictured below.



The record book may be used for several years, and each receipt book contains fifty receipt forms. Both may be obtained by sending $1.25 to the state office. Extra receipt books may be purchased for ten cents each.

Keep your P.T.A. financial figures in up-to-date accessible form by using these practical aids to better record keeping.

Tell All Members...

ABOUT THESE INTERESTING ARTICLES IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER: THE P.T.A. MAGAZINE

STUDY COURSE ARTICLES:

- *Psychology of the Preschool Child*

Freedom from Fear
by Helen Ross

Fear, which is at once a scourge and a blessing to mankind, is truly a problem for parents with young children. The balance between due caution and undue anxiety is delicate even for an adult. We need great wisdom and great serenity, based on an adequate sense of the matter's importance, if we are to guide and teach our children aright. This article shows how they may be taught to avoid danger without developing destructive fears.

- *Psychology of the School-Age Child*

Hero Worship: Wise or Unwise?
by Anna W. M. Wolf

Wise or unwise, it's extremely likely to occur. Nearly every child goes through the experience. The important thing is that he select the right hero; for, once selected, the hero can do no wrong—not as far as Jean or John is concerned! Parents, bewildered by the headlong, reasonless admiration of a child for some older person who seems to them commonplace, have wailed of this "silliness" for generations. But is it really silly? It all depends. What it depends on and what to do about it are discussed by a specialist in the art of parent-child relations.

Vanishing Ideals
by Harry A. Overstreet

All of us have had the wonderful experience of seeing some young person aflame with idealism. Many of us, too, have had the sad experience of seeing this idealism snuffed out and never rekindled. Why is this so? Does our culture not sufficiently reward the inquiring mind? This month an eminent educator-philosopher tells us what we need and what we must do to preserve our young people's ideals.

Be sure your Magazine chairman sees this page!

OTHER WORTH-WHILE ARTICLES:

The High Art of Belonging
IV. A Tool Kit of Psychological Insights
by Bonaro W. Overstreet

Skilled mastery of the sharp and delicate instruments of insight is essential to success in any group effort. With it, members are held together in the cordial warmth of a common purpose; without it, they are forever divided by dissension. Herself an able practitioner of the art of human relations, Mrs. Overstreet suggests how first to discover and then to develop aptitudes for personal cooperation.

One World—but How?
by Herman Finer

Why is it so hard to build "one world"? Why cannot the peoples of the earth work harmoniously together in a world community, as they do on a smaller scale in families and organizations? These questions are in all our minds today. The final answer, perhaps, is yet to be found; but every earnest attempt must bring it nearer. This article offers a basic approach to the problem, together with an appraisal of the issues involved.

Helping the Handicapped Child
by Anna H. Hayes

To send forth children strong in mind and body and able to meet the world on equal terms is the greatest single joy of parenthood. So many parents are denied this joy and so many children enter the lists with a handicap that it behooves all parents and teachers to consider their plight. What are their vital needs in education? In social adjustment? In spiritual growth? This article by the first vice-president of the National Congress will have universal appeal to those who truly believe that "All Children Are Our Children."

TRIS TOOK OVER CHRISTMAS
by Robert P. Tristram Coffin

An old-fashioned Christmas that is handed down from father to son is the best kind, after all. Maybe that's why this story of a boy who came naturally by hand-me-downs touches such a deep chord of sentiment in all of us. It is the story of Tris, thirteen years old, who bravely stepped into his father's shoes one snowy Christmas night.